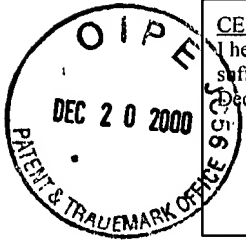
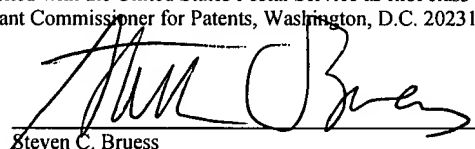


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Thompson et al.	Examiner:	Unknown
Serial No.:	09/689,989	Group Art Unit:	Unknown
Filed:	October 13, 2000	Docket No.:	2316.926USD1
Title:	OUTSIDE PLANT FIBER DISTRIBUTION APPARATUS AND METHOD		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on December 14, 2000.


Steven C. BruessPRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Before examination, please enter the following amendment:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 18, 28 and 29.

REMARKS

Claims 19-27 are now pending for examination.

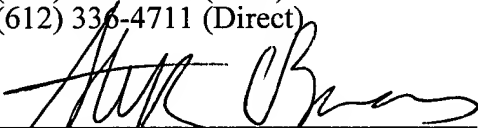
If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issue, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number noted.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300 (Firm)
(612) 336-4711 (Direct)

Date

Dec. 14, 2000


Steven C. Bruess
Reg. No. 34,130